

I have come to this floor many times over the past many years and complained about the terrible foreign policy we have had, the terrible monetary policy we have had, the excessive spending and the debt, and also the tax policy. But what we are doing and what we are accepting and putting up with at the airports is so symbolic of us just not standing up and saying enough is enough.

I know the American people are starting to wake up, but our government, those in charge, Congress, as well as the executive branch, are doing nothing. Yes, they are talking about maybe backing off and allowing the pilots to go through. But can you think how silly the whole thing is? The pilot has a gun in the cockpit and he is managing this aircraft, which is a missile, and we make him go through this groping X-ray exercise, having people feeling their underwear. It is absurd, and it is time we wake up.

The bill I have introduced will take care of this. But we have to realize that the real problem is that the American people have been too submissive. We have been too submissive. It has been going on for a long time. This was to be expected even from the beginning of the TSA. And it is deeply flawed. Private property should be protected by private individuals, not bureaucrats.

But the bill that I have introduced will take care of it. It is very simple. It is one paragraph long. It removes the immunity from anybody in the Federal government that does anything that you or I can't do.

If you can't grope another person and if you can't X-ray people and endanger them with possible X-rays, you can't take nude photographs of individuals, why do we allow the government to do it? We would go to jail. He would be immediately arrested, if an individual citizen went up and did these things, and yet we just sit there and calmly say, oh, they are making us safe. And besides, the argument from the executive branch is that when you buy a ticket, you have sacrificed your rights and it is the duty of the government to make us safe.

That isn't the case. You never have to sacrifice your rights. The duty of the government is to protect our rights, not to use them and do what they have been doing to us.

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The pilots, hopefully, will be exempted from this.

Another suggestion I have that might help us: let's make sure that every Member of Congress goes through this. Get the x-ray and make them look at the pictures and then go through one of those groping pat-downs, and then I think there would be a difference. Have everybody in the executive branch, anybody—a Cabinet member—make them go through it and look at it. Maybe they would pay more attention. But this doesn't work. This

is not what makes us safer. This is preposterous to think that the TSA has made us safer.

When you think about it, if you look at what's happened over the past 10 years, during this last decade, we lost 3,000 on a terrible, terrible day for America. But since that time in this last decade we have also lost 6,000 of our military personnel going over there and trying to rectify this problem. We have lost 400,000 people on our government-run highways. We have lost 150,000 individuals from homicides.

So I think there's reason to be concerned, reason to deal with this problem. We're not dealing with it the right way. We're doing the wrong thing. And groping people at the airport doesn't solve our problems. What has solved our problems, basically, has been that they put a good lock on the door, and they put a gun inside the cockpit. That's been the greatest boon to our safety.

Safety should be the responsibility of the individual and the private property owner. But right now we assume the government's always going to take care of us, and we are supposed to sacrifice our liberties. I say that is wrong. We are not safer. And we also know there are individuals who are making money off this. Michael Chertoff, here's a guy that was the head of the TSA, selling the equipment. And the equipment is questionable. We don't even know if it works, and it may well be dangerous to our health.

The way I see this, if this doesn't change, I see what has happened to the American people is we have accepted the notion that we should be treated like cattle. Make us safe, make us secure, put us in barbed wire, feed us, fatten us up, and then they'll eat us. And we're a bunch of cattle, and we have to wake up and say, We've had it.

I think this whole idea of an opt-out day is just great. We ought to opt out and make the point. Get somebody to watch. And take a camera. It's time for the American people to stand up and shrug off the shackles of our government at TSA at the airports.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IN MEMORY OF ROSS BEACH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening in memory of my friend, Ross Beach. The House rules only allow me 5 minutes to speak, and it's difficult to summarize anyone's life in such a short time, but impossible to do justice to the life of Mr. Beach.

Ross passed away this weekend at his home at the age of 92. Ross was defined by family and friends, business success, and charity.

A lifelong Kansan, Ross received his education in my hometown of Hays. Following a childhood upbringing in the oil and gas fields of western Kansas, Ross enrolled at Kansas State University, where he met and later married the love of his life, Marianna Kistler. They were married in 1941. Ross's service as a naval aviator during World War II sparked an interest in flying that would continue throughout his life.

Ross was a pioneer in our State in banking, radio and television, and in oil and gas. His many professional endeavors created jobs and economic opportunity for many Kansans. He was the president of Kansas Natural Gas Company and chairman of the board of Douglas County Bank. His success in the business world was overshadowed only by his and his wife's generosity. Ross and Marianna are among our State's most prolific supporters of arts and education—the greatest supporters that perhaps we will ever see in our State. On the campus of Fort Hays State University, the Beach family helped fund the Beach-Schmidt Performing Arts Center, and Ross's generosity made possible the construction of the nationally renowned Sternberg Museum of National History.

The Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art on the campus of Kansas State University bears the name of Mrs. Beach, which was named for her in commemoration of their 50th wedding anniversary. My wife, Robba, and I have been honored to serve on the board of visitors at the art museum that bears the Beach name, and we're able to witness firsthand the passion and commitment Ross and Marianna had for culture and the arts in Kansas. On the campus of the University of Kansas, Ross assisted in the formation of the Beach Center on Disability, where Kansans with disabilities and their families are helped to lead healthier and more productive lives.

Kansans from all walks of life have benefited from Ross's compassion to others and his service to community. He was recognized on many, many occasions, including his designation as Kansan of the Year in 2002; the President's Award from Kansas State University in 1989; and, along with his wife, the Citations for Distinguished Service from both the University of Kansas and Fort Hays State University.

Despite his stature in our community and State, Mr. Beach always treated every person he encountered with respect and dignity. Anyone who met Ross easily became a lifelong friend. As a young newlywed couple starting out our new life in Hays, the first invitation Robba and I received was to come to Ross and Marianna's home for dinner. There was never a more gracious couple than the Beaches.

For a large portion of my life, I joined Ross and other businessmen and professionals for lunch at The Roundtable. While there was a lot of talk of sports and politics, I learned a lot more about life by listening to Mr. Beach. From our earliest meeting to just last month, he was my friend and adviser. I hate the thought that no longer do I have the ability to pick up the phone and see what Mr. Beach thought of one of my ideas or to discuss what was going on in our small-town neighborhood or what was happening on the world stage.

My friendship with Mr. Beach certainly opened doors in business and politics; but, more importantly, he gave me the confidence to realize that this small-town Kansas kid could one day be able to serve his State and the Congress of the United States of America.

While my family and I are saddened by the death of Ross Beach, we take comfort in knowing the legacy of Mr. Beach will endure far beyond our own generation. While Ross Beach may have donated his talents and treasure, it is his caring nature and generous soul that I and many others will miss most. To Marianna and daughters Mary McDowell and husband Gary; Terry Edwards and husband R.A.; and Jane Hipp and husband Steve, I offer my deepest sympathies. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of a man dedicated to service and committed to making Kansas and America a better place to live and work.

We are told to whom much is given much is expected. Ross Beach more than fulfilled this expectation, and I'm honored this evening to pay tribute to an amazing, larger-than-life man that I had the fortune to know for nearly 35 years. The man who loved to fly soared throughout his life and landed safely on heaven's shore.

PRINCIPLES OF HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Next week will mark the 8-month anniversary of the new health care law. When we started this debate almost 2 years ago, I relied on my longtime experience in the medical field to come up with four principles that I strongly believe should be in any health care reform. The first was that health care reform should lower costs. That has yet to happen under this law. Instead, the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services projected that overall national health spending would increase an average of 6.3 percent a year over the next decade under the new law. In addition, the law imposes more than half a trillion dollars in tax increases. It imposes more than \$210 billion in new payroll taxes that could hit small business owners.

The Medicare actuary has reported that health care costs would actually increase over the next decade by a total of \$310.8 billion. The Congressional Budget Office, or the CBO, wrote that most of the major saving proposals in the health care law are "widely expected" to be scaled back or would be difficult to sustain for a long period. That means higher deficits.

The second principal for health care reform is that it should increase access to care. That has yet to happen under the new law. Instead, major health insurance companies in California and other States simply have decided to stop selling policies for children rather than complying with the new Federal law that bars them from rejecting youngsters with preexisting conditions. While these insurance companies are not distinguishing themselves, the reality is that they will always look out for their bottom line.

The Medicare actuary found that provisions in the law will cause as many as 40 percent of Medicare providers to become unprofitable over time, thus "providers would have to withdraw from providing services to Medicare beneficiaries." This will mean problems with access to care. An example is, in Texas, over the last 2 years, more than 300 primary care physicians have stopped seeing seniors.

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My third principle is that we should preserve the innovations and improvements that have allowed this country to pioneer new treatments, medications, and equipment. Yet, under this law, there will be \$107 billion in taxes on drug and device manufacturers and insurers. That is more money for taxes and less money for innovation.

The bill requires small businesses to file 1099 forms to any vendor with which they spend more than \$600 in a given year. That will affect 40 million businesses that will be involved in increased paperwork at a huge cost, detracting from their ability to invest in research and development.

Finally, I believe that any reform of our health care system should preserve the decisionmaking process between the patient and the patient's physician, not the government, not a bureaucrat, and certainly not anyone from a health insurance company, but the new health care law does just the opposite.

In one estimate, the law creates 159 various bureaucracies and commissions, Mr. Speaker. In fact, the Congressional Research Service essentially threw its hands up in the air and concluded "the precise number of entities that will be created is currently unknowable." The administration has released 4,103 pages of regulations and is still going strong. Soon the government will be in control of every aspect of health care, but I assume that was the ultimate goal.

This 2,700-page law is, as the CRS says, "currently unknowable." Our Speaker, NANCY PELOSI, had it right

when she said the House would "have to pass the bill so you can find out what is in it." Yet what we do know about it violates all four of the principles on which any health care reform should be based.

I supported the Republican alternative 6 months ago, H.R. 3400, the Empowering Patients First Act. It includes my principles and it deserves support.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MAKE IT IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity.

Coming off the elections, everyone wants to know what the voters had on their minds. I'll share with you a few things that I heard from my voters in my district and throughout California—perhaps experiences similar from around America.

They want jobs. They want to work.

I think all of us in one way or another understands and feels within us the need to work. It's part of our lives. There are a few, undoubtedly, around who don't ever want to work—and okay for them—but for most Americans, they want a job. They want the opportunity to bring home a paycheck, to support their families—to provide for their food, their shelter, their opportunities for education, and to go on a vacation every now and then. That basic instinct—that basic desire to care for your family, to help build a community—I think is part of America. Americans want jobs. If there were ever a message from this year's elections, it's that.

Now, this isn't new to those of us who are here in the Chamber. It's not